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**BULLETIN
OF THE
CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED
WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 20

April, 1967

Number 8

New Titles for Children and Young People

Abernethy, Robert G. Introduction to Tomorrow; The United States and the Wider World, 1945-1965; illus. with photographs and maps. Harcourt, 1966. 286p. \$4.95.

Ad 9- An NBC news correspondent describes world events, discusses some of the leading military and political figures of the years between 1945 and 1965, and analyzes internal events on national scenes as well as international relationships. Mr. Abernethy is lucid and perceptive, occasionally biased in opinions but accurate in giving facts. Sources for quoted material are given at the back of the book; a list of notable dates and an index are appended; a useful chart lists "New Nations Since 1945," giving old as well as new names and dates of attainment of independence. The book is illustrated with several sections of bound-in photographs that are not in sequence.

Baker, Liva. World Faiths; A Story of Religion; illus. with photographs. Abelard-Schuman, 1966. 237p. \$4.95.

Ad 7-10 A rather interesting book on comparative religion, in which the author describes, not one faith at a time, but aspects of religions. One chapter, for example, discusses the religious books and some of the unwritten legends that explain creation; another chapter describes "The Holy Places." The strength of the book is that the reader may feel the unity of faith and recognize the similarities in different religions; on the other hand, the fact that in each chapter there is such a spectrum of information may mean that the reader will have only a vague idea of the beliefs and observances of religions not already familiar to him. A bibliography and a relative index are appended.

Beaty, Janice J. Seeker of Seaways; A Life of Matthew Fontaine Maury, Pioneer Oceanographer; illus. by Joseph Cellini. Pantheon Books, 1966. 162p. \$3.95.

R 7- An attractively illustrated and competently written biography of one of the great American scientists of the nineteenth century. Maury's accomplishments: textbooks on navigation and geography, pioneer work in oceanography, chartmaker, and college teacher among other things. Because of his work and his dedication, his life would be interesting in any case, but his biography is given added dramatic interest because of the jealous persecution he suffered from other scientists and their influential friends. A brief bibliography is appended.

Bleeker, Sonia. The Ashanti of Ghana; illus. by Edith G. Singer. Morrow, 1966. 160p. \$2.95.

R
5-7 An outstanding addition to the author's series of cultural studies; this is the third book about an African people. It is rich in colorful and authentic detail, with excellent historical background, and it is written with sympathy and dignity. The style is straightforward and quite dry; the material is dramatic.

Blough, Glenn Orlando. Discovering Plants; pictures by Jeanne Bendick. McGraw-Hill, 1966. 47p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

M
3-5 A book on flowering plants, despite the title's indication of broader scope; the text is divided into topics and has neither a table of contents nor an index. The material in the book is in part information, in part questions intended to stimulate simple experiments or home demonstrations. The facts given are accurate, and the illustrations (save for the use of more than one picture on a page, resulting in out-of-scale comparisons) augment the text. The book is weakened, however, by the aforementioned lack of accessibility to the contents and by a slightly patronizing note in the writing. "You know that leaves are green. But do you know that you couldn't live on earth if they were not? Some people say leaves are the most important factories in the world. Do you believe this?" Not stimulating reading, but useful material for teachers.

Coen, Rene Neumann. American History in Art; designed by Wendell Carroll. Lerner, 1966. 71p. \$3.79.

Ad
5-9 A book that should prove useful as an adjunct to the study of our country's history. The text and the illustrations are chronological in arrangement, save for a portrait of Lincoln facing the introduction to the book; with one exception, all of the artists whose work is included in the book are American. Some of the reproductions are in color; most are in black and white. The text gives enough historical and artistic information to be of value, but it is weakened by a not inconsiderable amount of generalization, non sequiturs, and over-simplification. "Washington appears in a noble pose, despite the fact that he leads only a small band of colonial rebels." "Copley painted what he saw, and in this portrait we feel as though we had just dropped in for a moment to chat with this famous silversmith." Other volumes in this series of subjects in art focus on sports, birds, musical instruments, the city, and the warrior.

Davis, Caroline. The Roaring in the Glens; illus. by Douglas Bisset. Abelard-Schuman, 1967. 155p. \$3.50.

R
6-9 First published in Great Britain in 1966, an engrossing story set amid the Cairngorm Hills. Kirsty is an only child of twelve; when her local school closes she goes to stay with her uncle, Keeper on an Aberdeenshire estate. There Kirsty learns to know and love the deer, quietly to stalk the hinds, and to identify by their antlers the splendid stags. The characterization and dialogue are very good; the scenes of wild life superb. The author writes with precision of detail and a controlled affection for the place and the people.

Davis, Christopher. Sad Adam - Glad Adam; illus. by Stan Tusan. Crowell-Collier, 1966. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

R
4-6
yrs. A pleasant little read aloud story about learning to read. Adam, a small and avid listener, was happy to hear innumerable readings about his favorite, Ollie Frog. His parents and other adults ". . . when he asked a third time . . . both had other things to do." When Adams could not hear his Ollie Frog book, he was sad; when he went to school and couldn't immediately learn to read, he was sad; when he finally did learn to read, and he could read "Once there was a frog named Ollie who lived in a tree . . ." he was glad. The attitude of the adults, willing to cooperate but not to be bored to death, is realistic; so is the calm persistence of Adam's teacher.

De Jong, David Cornel. The Squirrel and the Harp; with pictures by Jo Spier. Macmillan, 1966. 47p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

M
3-5 Through the window, the squirrel used to watch the lady of the house dust the big, golden harp; the cat that lived in the house liked to race across the harp strings. One day the squirrel got into the house when the lady left; he and the cat had a wonderful chase, but they spilled nuts and cherries, overturned furniture, tipped vases of flowers, and upset dishes, books, and magazines. The writing lacks the light touch or the humor that might have enlivened the story, which has only the appeals of being an animal story and describing mischievous behavior; it is slow-moving and not quite convincing.

Durrell, Gerald. Two in the Bush; illus. by B. L. Driscoll. Viking, 1966. 256p. \$4.95.

R
7- An entertaining and informative account of the Durrells' travels in New Zealand, Australia, and Malaya, a trip made with a two-man BBC camera team for the purpose of filming rare and indigenous fauna, particularly those animals in conservation areas. The book has several qualities that make it enjoyable, in addition to the combined subject appeals of wild life and travel; it is an ardent plea for the protection of declining species, and it is written with affection and humor, although Mr. Durrell occasionally belabors a running gag, such as the inclination of one member of the camera team to become nauseated by motion.

Embry, Margaret Jacob. Peg-Leg Willy; pictures by Ann Grifalconi. Holiday House, 1966. 41p. \$2.95.

Ad
3-4 The four small Apodoca children live with their grandmother on a farm in New Mexico; Joe, the oldest, works for the owner of a nearby ranch. Mr. Baca gives Joe a wounded turkey; Joe takes the bird home and Willy becomes a family pet, especially doted on by the baby, Neville. The evasions and procrastinations that ensue when grandmother decides that the turkey should be killed for Thanksgiving dinner are quite entertaining. The plot is adequate and the ending happy and realistic; the story is preceded by a glossary listing the Spanish words used in the book, a clue to the possible purpose of the book, which gives a pleasant picture of a Mexican American family.

Epstein, Samuel. Young Paul Revere's Boston; by Sam and Beryl Epstein; illus. by Cary. Garrard, 1966. 96p. Library ed. \$2.27 net.

Ad
4-5 A simply written book, with informative illustrations and an attractive endsheet reproduction of an old print. The text is rather loosely or-

ganized and occasionally stilted in style, but it gives adequate coverage in describing the port of Boston in 1747. The fact that the activities, foods, dress, educational patterns, et cetera, are tied to the Revere family is a bit artificial, yet it is useful in those parts of the book where the authors distinguish between the ordinary family, such as the Reveres, and a wealthier family like the Hancocks. A glossary and an index are appended, the former giving definitions for quite a few words that have already been explained in the text.

Estes, Eleanor. Miranda the Great; illus. by Edward Ardizzone. Harcourt, 1967. 80p. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.39 net.

Ad 4-6 The story of a cat in Rome at the time of the barbarian invasion, although there are some human characters and a minimal amount of historical background, the emphasis is on Miranda and her heroic behavior at the time of crisis. Left in Rome with her daughter, Miranda rescued and led to safety a large number of other felines. She set up a ménage in the Coliseum, saved the family dog and returned him to the humans when the fire was over and the vandals gone; she reigned as Queen of the Coliseum. The humor is just a bit low-keyed for the middle grades reader, the references occasionally adult. For example, the father of the Roman family groans, "What senseless destruction! O tempora! O mores!" he said, for he was a learned man." The story will have greatest appeal to animal lovers; it is an imaginatively conceived book, a bit slow-moving, but with the double charms of gentleness and humor, and with expectably charming Ardizzone illustrations.

Franchère, Ruth. The Travels of Colin O'Dae; illus. by Lorence Bjorklund. T. Y. Crowell, 1966. 261p. \$3.75.

Ad 6-9 The story of a theatrical troupe, set in 1836; the protagonist is fourteen-year-old Colin, who stole away from his father and a job of canal digging to travel with the Edwin Flower family. The glamor of theater and travel on a showboat soon wore off, although Colin learned to perform on stage and became fond of the family. He decided, when the season was over, to return to his father and to use his savings to buy some prairie land. The period details and the theatrical atmosphere are colorful; the story line, largely anecdotal, is subordinate to them.

Frère, Maud. Nicole, A Little French Schoolgirl; tr. from the French by Robin Gottlieb; illus. by Nadine Forster. Random House, 1966. 28p. \$2.95.

NR K-2 A sequel to My Name Is Nicole (Random House, 1965), awarded the 1964 Prix Loisirs Jeunes. Illustrated with bright Disney-like drawings, the story is told in first person and in present tense. Nicole rattles on about her teacher, her chum at school, and her games with an imaginary Indian playmate. Several episodes concern a rather unpleasant pair of relatives, one of them a boy cousin, Odilon; Nicky's treatment of him results in "a good slap" from her mother. The familiarity of Nicky's activities will have appeal, but the pseudo-ingenuous comments ("All women teachers wear glasses, don't they?" "I guess the reason Miss Helene can read without glasses is that she looks like a bird, and birds don't need glasses.") seem obtrusively cute. A list of French words and their English equivalents (with no pronunciation) is appended.

Gard, Joyce. Smudge of the Fells. Holt, 1966. 190p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.27 net.

Ad 7-9 Set in England's lake district, a contemporary junior novel first published in England in 1965. Gerald, fourteen, runs away from his home because he cannot abide the sneering stepfather whose honesty he holds in some doubt. Once among the fells, Gerald finds again the solitary, elderly Lanty Jessup who had once been a hospitable host. Lanty takes Gerald in, and the boy loves the country life and his pet lamb, Smudge; he watches with interest the busy life on a local sheep farm, Greenrain. The increase in sheep-stealing is solved in an all-ends-tied closing; the stepfather is unmasked as the culprit and he dies, Gerald's timid mother comes to live in a Greenrain cottage, old Lanty (relieved of the burden of hiding the stepfather's booty from previous thefts) moves into another cottage, Gerald is a minor local hero, and there are two announcements of marriage among the minor characters. The contrivances of the story line weaken the book, but it is strong in the smoothness of the writing style, good dialogue, and really fine descriptions of the countryside.

Garnett, Emmeline. Tormented Angel; A Life of John Henry Newman. Ariel, 1966. 136p. \$3.25.

Ad 9- The life of Cardinal Newman is given in a series of vignettes, loquacious and colorfully casual. Although there are informational lacunae and occasional awkward shifts of tense, this biography communicates a sense of the author's feeling of immediacy and involvement. She may fail to explain to the reader wherein Newman's greatness lay; she most convincingly demonstrates that to those who revered him in his lifetime and to his readers today, Newman was one of the great men of religion. The index seems inadequate, since it cites chiefly place and proper names; an indication of the author's slight treatment of Cardinal Newman's writing is given by the fact that only five titles are included in the index.

Graves, Robert. Two Wise Children; pictures by Ralph Pinto. Harlin Quist, 1966. 26p. Trade ed. \$2.75; Library ed. \$2.73 net.

M 4-5 A fanciful tale, sedately told. The plot is minimal, with a few episodes based on one idea and with a vague, drifting conclusion. Bill Brain, who is ten, meets eight-year-old Avis and finds that she has a magical ability. Avis can execute a new skill with perfection, just as Bill once was able to know anything in the world. As Bill has, she loses her talent when she tells about it. The illustrations are skilful, humorous pictures in black and white.

Grey, Elizabeth. Winged Victory; The Story of Amy Johnson. Houghton, 1966. 161p. \$3.25.

R 7-10 A biography of one of the pioneer women of aviation history, Amy Johnson Mollison, whose solo flight to Australia from England made her a popular heroine in 1930. The writing is straightforward and objective, candid in appraisal of the subject's personality, of her unsuccessful marriage, and of her occasionally bad press. The determination of a young, inexperienced office worker to learn to fly, her solo flight, her marriage to another flyer, and her tragic death at the age of thirty-seven are made the more dramatic by the quiet writing. A bibliography is appended.

Grey, Vivian. Secret of the Mysterious Rays; The Discovery of Nuclear Energy; illus. by Ed Malsberg. Basic, 1966. 120p. \$3.95.

R
7-10 Although all of the material in this book, both the scientific and the biographical aspects, have been described elsewhere, this should be a useful addition; it is certainly accurate and well organized. Not popularized in writing style, it has an occasional anecdote or passage of dialogue; the tone is fairly light. In concentrating on the work of a dozen scientists (Roentgen, Becquerel, the Curies, Einstein, et cetera . . . the usual royal procession) the author gives a good picture of the ways in which a body of knowledge builds, of the dissolution of national boundaries in scientific work, and of the intricate exchange of contributions to knowledge between the scientific disciplines. An index is appended.

Halacy, Daniel S. Radiation, Magnetism, and Living Things. Holiday House, 1966. 196p. illus. \$4.50.

M
9-12 A text that contains some fascinating experimental reports, some good science history, a great deal of information about established data, and far too much of everything. The chapters are divided into topics; a chapter on "Energies and Plants," for example, discusses plant electricity, magnetic fields, gravity, nuclear radiation, sound waves, prayer, metogenic rays, and "spud" metabolism. The scope of the book is broad and the number of sub-topics great; and the text covers biological clocks, telepathy, phenomena of space affecting humans, the origin of life, dowsing, electromagnetic fields, hypnotism, human radiation, et cetera. Although heavily overlaid, the book is given some usefulness by the fairly long index. A bibliography and a glossary of terms are appended.

Haugaard, Kay. Myeko's Gift; illus. by Dora Ternei. Abelard-Schuman, 1966. 160p. \$3.50.

Ad
4-6 A realistic but slow-moving story about cultural integration. Myeko, only recently come to California from Osaka, does not like America and does not feel comfortable at the American school. Little by little, friend by friend, Myeko feels more at home, and gradually she stops thinking in terms of differences. At the close of the story, Myeko is being teased about something Japanese and becomes provoked—then she realizes that this was fond teasing, and that her friends feel that she is giving them something out of her heritage. The characterization is fairly superficial, but relationships and motivations are good.

Heck, Bessie Holland. The Year at Boggy; illus. by Paul Frame. World, 1966. 156p. \$3.75.

R
5-6 A sequel to Millie; although that title was followed by The Hopeful Years, in which Millie was older and living in town in 1917, here Mrs. Heck goes back to Millie's childhood. The Holliway family has just moved again and Millie, twelve, dreads starting a new school; she has no trouble making friends, but she is convinced the teacher dislikes her. When she finally confesses this to Miss May, the elderly, beloved friend who is visiting, her sister corroborates it. "Everyone knows Miss Comstock hates Millie. . . . Because she thinks she's a smart aleck." Papa helps clear up the misunderstanding, so Millie is all the more delighted when she finds that she will be able to go to the same school the next year—no more moving. The story has many small incidents of rural life

and family events smoothly incorporated; the plot is adequate, but the appeal of the book is in the period flavor.

Hill, Robin. Bushland and Seashore; An Australian Nature Adventure. Ginn, 1966. 48p. illus. \$4.50.

Ad 8- First published in Australia in 1962, an oversize book that is profusely illustrated with paintings of Australian wild life—paintings that are exquisite in color and in structural details. Unfortunately, the lack of captions or labels, and the fact that the subjects of illustrations are not always on the same page as the textual reference means that the illustrations cannot be identified except through index references. The basis of the division of text is ecological; the writing style is fluent, mature, and romantic. Chiefly for browsing; an index is appended.

Hirschfeld, Burt. The Spanish Armada; The Story of a Glorious Defeat; maps and drawings by Barry Martin. Messner, 1966. 190p. \$3.95.

M 8- A history of the great naval encounter, with considerable background information about the national and international complications of European—and particularly of Spanish and English—affairs. The facts are adequately treated, but the book is weakened by a great many imaginary, often melodramatic, conversations. The book is not as effectively written as are those by Marx or Smith (Horizon Magazine) both reviewed in this issue nor is the format as imposing; the illustrations are meagre and pedestrian. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Horizon Magazine. The Spanish Armada; by the editors of Horizon Magazine; narr. by Jay Williams; in consultation with Lacey Baldwin Smith. American Heritage, 1966. 153p. illus. (Horizon Caravel Books) Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.79 net.

R 8- A superbly illustrated and colorfully written account of one of the great battles of history, the text giving more than adequate prefatory and background material to enable the reader to understand both the causes and the consequences of the defeat of the armada. As always in this series, the illustrations are varied, well-placed, and adequately captioned. The writing is lucid, and the coverage is comprehensive. A brief list of books suggested for further reading and an index are appended.

Hughes, Richard. Gertrude's Child; pictures by Rick Schreiter. Harlin Quist, 1966. 42p. \$2.95.

Ad K-3 A read-aloud story with humorous-grotesque illustrations in black and white; the fanciful theme is nicely conceived and, for the most part, nicely developed. Gertrude is a wooden doll who leaves home when her owner is unkind; she meets an old man who suggests that she might like to buy a child for herself. In the shop, Gertrude sees boys and girls of all sizes and colors, picks a dainty little girl, takes her home and promptly proceeds to neglect and mistreat her. Gertrude gives a "Child Party" at which the guests (animals and toys) celebrate in a reversal of "doll party" roles. When Gertrude's child is threatened by a lion, the guests unite to save little Annie; Gertrude, wounded, feels a new tendresse. The be-kind-to-your-toys-and-pets theme is developed with enough acidity and humor to keep from being didactic; the story is writ-

ten with a bland gravity and a slight amount of tongue in cheek. There are, here and there, some weaknesses; for example, in the shop where Gertrude goes to choose her child, there is one little girl who is lying in a box by herself, and whose eyes will never open again. This seems mildly macabre and could easily have been omitted.

Johnston, Johanna. That's Right, Edie; pictures by Paul Galdone. Putnam, 1967. 46p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.29 net.

R Edie loved to scribble, and it made her slightly cross when she had
K-2 to interpret her writing. Mother showed Edie how to print her name, but that was too slow. When Edie started school, there was more trouble: all the other children put their names on pictures and their pictures were exhibited. Not Edie; she didn't trouble to write her name, so she didn't take part in the exhibit. Edie insisted on scribbling instead of learning to write until she had to sign for a delivery or give up the bicycle that was being delivered. (All arranged by a desperate mother.) Who screamed with joy because she could write? That's right. Edie.

Kästner, Erich. The Little Man; tr. from the German by James Kirkup; pictures by Rick Schreiter. Knopf, 1966. 184p. \$3.95.

R Translated from the German, a charming fanciful story, original in
5-6 conception and written in a most diverting style. Maxie, who is two inches tall, has been left an orphan by the tiny parents who came from a Bohemian village of tiny people. A protégé of the famous conjuror, Professor Hokus von Pokus, Maxie becomes a famous circus and television star; among his ancillary activities, he rescues himself from his own kidnapping. Nicest of all: the style of writing, which is lively, intelligent, and entertaining.

Keeping, Charles. Molly O' the Moors; The Story of a Pony. World, 1967. 32p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.41 net.

Ad First published in England, the story of a pony; Molly (whose name
3-4 is never used save in the title) tells of her hard work in the city after she had become too old to be a show pony, of her collapse, and of being sent back to the countryside from whence she had come. The style of writing is only adequate, the ending abrupt and flat. The illustrations are stunning: stylized in technique, glowing with color, and beautifully designed.

Kimball, Gwen. The Cardiff Giant. Duell, 1966. 150p. \$3.50.

M A story based on the famous nineteenth century hoax perpetrated by
6-9 George Hull. Here the protagonist is George's nephew Nate, who is sixteen and well aware that Uncle George is inclined to dabble in fraudulent enterprises. Nate, suspicious about the block of gypsum that is carved in Chicago, gives the spiel about the giant stone figure when it is being exhibited; then he decides that he must tell the truth, leave Uncle George, and get a vacation. He has made a friend of Dr. Andrew White, the first president of Cornell University. The book gives some information about the hoax and some period details, but it is weakened by slow pace, exaggerated characterization, and particularly by dialogue that is often quite unnatural.

King, Alexander. Memoirs of a Certain Mouse; as told to Alexander King; illus. by Richard Erdoes. McGraw-Hill, 1966. 92p. \$2.95.

M
5-6 First published in McCall's Magazine in 1965 under the "Memoirs of a Mouse," an adventure story told by Pinky Whiskereeno, a laboratory mouse. Pinky's cooperative attitude is changed after some conversations with a sophisticated and cosmopolitan myna bird. Pinky runs off, meets Tsi-Tsi, a charming female mouse, visits a zoo, sets off a fire alarm and prevents disaster, gets back to the laboratory and is joined by Tsi-Tsi. The author wrote with some flair, so that the story has style and humor, but much of the appeal is to the adult; the situation seems often belabored, the reiterated concept being that it is quaint to have animals thinking and talking like people.

Kingman, Lee. The Year of the Raccoon. Houghton, 1966. 246p. \$3.50.

R
6-9 Joey is the middle child; an ordinary boy (and he knows it). Joey admires his two gifted brothers and adores the forceful and handsome father whose work keeps him too much away from home. Feeling inferior and rather inadequate because he has no goals ahead, Joey becomes easily attached to a baby raccoon; Bertie proves to be an increasingly destructive pet. In the year that Bertie is with him, there are many changes in Joey's life; his older brother—who has seemed so sure of his goal—almost has a breakdown, the raccoon, who had been let free, returns home to die, and Joey begins to understand his parents and himself.

Kinney, Jean. What Does the Tide Do? illus. by Cle Kinney. Scott, 1966. 35p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$2.96 net.

Ad
K-3 A quiet, slow-moving book about marine life at the seashore and the changing population effected by tidal action; the text is set in a fictional framework that is unobtrusive. A small boy spends a summer day on an ocean pier, watching marine creatures and doing a bit of fishing. Damon has a chat with a fisherman, who tells him about various kinds of fish; the text seems, at some points, a mere cataloging of animal life. The illustrations show, clearly and quite attractively, the water rising and falling past the supports of the pier, but the explanation of tidal action is not given until the last few pages of the book, when the story about the boy has ended.

Knight, David C. Let's Find Out About Magnets; pictures by Don Miller. Watts, 1967. 55p. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad
2-3 A good first science book for the primary grades reader. The text is continuous; the illustrations show white and Negro children doing simple experiments and demonstrations. The pictures are large and clear; the print is large and clear; the explanations of basic magnetic phenomena are lucid. The book begins with a brief description of the Grecian knowledge of lodestones; it concludes with some examples of the use of magnets in such familiar objects as a refrigerator door or an automatic can-opener.

Koob, Theodora. The Tacky Little Icicle Shack; illus. by Kurt Werth. Lippincott, 1966. 107p. \$3.25.

Ad 4-6 The Warren family has moved to a house in the country because Major Warren is recovering from a heart attack; the three children are bored and restive until they find an abandoned shack in which they set up a business. Product: a chocolate-banana-ice cream drink. The Warrens get into a mild amount of trouble and have to vacate the premises, but it is arranged that they will go on selling Delish for the benefit of various projects of the school at which they have just enrolled. The plot is not strong, nor is the writing style; the appeals of the book are in the sibling relationships, the country setting, and the satisfying details of a minutely-planned and executed project.

McLanathan, Richard. The Pageant of Medieval Art and Life. Westminster, 1966. 127p. illus. \$6.95.

R 9- Although this very good book does give some historical material, it so emphasizes art and architecture as expressions of medieval faith that it might be more accurately titled. It is written with authority and crispness; the illustrations, in black and white, consist of photographs of works of art, churches, architectural details, and of architectural diagrams. The text is printed in two columns, and the small print looks solid on the page; the material is well organized, and the book's usefulness is increased by a divided bibliography and an index.

Martin, Patricia Miles. Mrs. Crumble & Fire Engine No. 7; illus. by Earl Tholander. Putnam, 1967. 48p. Library ed. \$2.86 net.

M 2-4 Mrs. Crumble had, for almost twenty years, been coming every Tuesday to clean the firehouse. When nobody was looking, she climbed up and polished the brass on Engine Number Seven. Nobody appreciated her; nobody ever said "Well done." She almost stayed home one day, but feared that someone might be hired to take her place; that day the Chief gave Mrs. Crumble a badge and a speech. Not only had she worked hard for twenty years; she had also put out a kitchen fire in the firehouse and perhaps saved it from destruction. The writing style is very simple and the lively illustrations have appeal; the weakness of the story is not so much in the adult cast, but the adult motivation.

Marx, Robert F. The Battle of the Spanish Armada, 1588. World, 1965. 127p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.09 net.

R 7- A very good book on the subject, different in scope and in format from the Horizon Magazine book reviewed above, but equally valuable; it is superior to the book by Hirschfeld, also reviewed in this issue. The illustrations are black and white reproductions of portraits, maps, and prints; the page layout is more dignified and the print more legible than are those in either the Hirschfeld or Horizon volumes. The text does give background material, but it focuses on the details of the battle itself. An index is appended.

May, Charles Paul. High-Noon Rocket; pictures by Brinton Turkle. Holiday House, 1966. 33p. \$2.95.

M 3-5 A fanciful story that incorporates a modicum of information about time zones; the book is attractively illustrated in black, white, and blue. Wilson Watson Wooster receives a balloon rocket from an aunt in the west, so he flies west to see her. En route, he is able to help several

people; for example, a woman who is marooned on the roof of an apartment house is flown by Wilson to her apartment, three windows down. At each stop, people insist on feeding the boy; at each stop Wilson has to explain to the confused adults that it is an hour (or more) earlier in the east. Were there humor in the writing style, the situation might seem comic; it seems, however, only repetitive.

Mayne, William. The Old Zion; illus. by Margery Gill. Dutton, 1967. 64p. \$3.95.

R
5-7 First published in England, a new and distinguished Mayne story, with a setting unlike his others. The setting is a small island in the South Seas; the Old Zion is a church, and the plot concerns the shifting of the church to a new location. George, father of two small boys, is the protagonist; naturally lazy, but too much of an opportunist not to work when there might be some glory involved, George is the driving force in organizing the move. Small Beni rides on the roof of the Zion, ringing the church bell in coded directions that tell those carrying the building which way to walk. The characterization and the dialogue are a joy; the picture of the cultural patterns of the islands not seeming colored by an attitude, but seeming only to mirror reality.

Neurath, Marie. They Lived Like This: The Ancient Maya; artist: John Ellis. Watts, 1967. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad
3-5 First published in Great Britain in 1966, a very handsomely illustrated book about the Mayan civilization of the past. The text is lucid and accurate, but coverage is superficial, the continuous text comprising a series of physically separated paragraphs. The superficiality may be demonstrated by the discussion of the Mayan number-writing; there is no statement about the Mayan knowledge of zero, or of the fact that the system was based on twenty.

Osborne, Leone Neal. Than Hoa of Viet-Nam; illus. by Ruth Boynton. McGraw-Hill, 1966. 62p. \$2.75.

Ad
3-5 Than Hoa is a boy of ten who lives in a small village; his parents are poor rice farmers, and while Than Hoa does not mind taking charge of his small sister, he does wish there were enough money for him to go to school. When, by digging a pit, Than Hoa traps a predatory tiger, the Mayor announces that the village will guarantee the boy's education, even including the university at Saigon. The story and the pictures give interesting cultural details; the story line is a bit slow.

Parkinson, Ethelyn M. The Operation that Happened to Rupert Piper; illus. by Gloria Kamen. Abingdon, 1966. 176p. \$3.25.

M
5-6 A sequel to The Terrible Troubles of Ruper Piper (reviewed in the September, 1963 issue) in which eleven episodes about a group of sixth graders were told by Rupert. Here the story is continuous and more cohesive; here there is less repetition, since the material was not first published in magazines, as was its predecessor, as separate tales. Rupert sneaks into the hospital to take a friend's place, but his ruse is discovered and he is kept in for an appendectomy. He meets a boy who has been orphaned and seriously injured in an automobile accident; the boy turns out to be the nephew of a wealthy local resident. There are also two adult romances as sub-plots, much flippant dialogue, much by-

play about girls being a nuisance, and just enough humor to make contrivance bearable.

Picard, Barbara Leonie. One Is One. Holt, 1966. 287p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.59 net.

Ad
6-9 First published in Great Britain in 1965, a story of adventure in the feudal world of the fourteenth century. Thirteen-year-old Stephen de Beauville is held in contempt by the other children in his large family because he is afraid of dogs. Dreaming of knighthood and status, Stephen is shocked when his father sends him to a Benedictine monastery. He runs away and is rescued by Sir Pagan, who takes the boy in and trains him; Sir Pagan becomes Stephen's idol, and when he is hung as a traitor, the lad is desolate. Profiting by Sir Pagan's teachings, Stephen becomes a skilled knight, visits the Holy Land, and decides at last to go back to the monastery. The minutiae of the chivalric life and of the medieval pattern are wonderfully convincing, but the solid style of writing and the scope of the story slow it considerably.

Sammis, Edward R. Last Stand at Stalingrad; The Battle that Saved the World. Macmillan, 1966. 96p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.54 net.

R
7-10 A vivid and moving documentary of the struggle for the city of Stalingrad; for months the fighting and bombing continued, the Russians holding out with grim tenacity until a counter-offensive could be mounted. The writing is crisp and straightforward, all the drama being in the harrowing facts. Illustrated with excellent battle maps and with many action photographs, the book gives a report on this major battle of World War II that is both informative and exciting. A detailed chronology, a brief bibliography, and an index are appended.

Schloat, G. Warren. María & Ramón; A Girl and Boy of Puerto Rico. Knopf, 1966. 44p. illus. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.09 net.

M
4-6 A compilation of photographs and of captions constitute the text, which is divided into four chapters, the illustrations being numbered in series within each chapter. There seems no apparent reason for such numbering, since the book has neither index nor table of contents nor is there any separation of caption and photograph. The book has some usefulness because it gives information; the photographs are of excellent quality and often augment the information, although in many instances their inclusion seems of dubious value; the text is fragmented because of format but fairly clear in style. The first chapter describes Ramón's day, the second María's; the third chapter describes the school day (both children are in sixth grade) and in the fourth, María's and Ramón's families meet at church and, again, at a party. There are a number of peripheral or incidental areas touched on in the book, such as the preparation of a holiday dish, or the school test for tuberculosis; there are the usual number of photographs that seem to have been included simply because the photographer had taken the pictures: a series of pictures of Ramón hunting a tree frog, for example.

Selsam, Millicent (Ellis). When an Animal Grows; pictures by John Kaufmann. Harper, 1966. 64p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.19 net.

R
1-3 An excellent first science book for the beginning independent reader, illustrated with soft, realistic pictures in black and white. The author compares the baby gorilla and the baby lamb, the first living in a close and dependent relationship with his mother for several months and the latter friskily independent soon after birth. Again, a helpless sparrow nestling and the duckling that walks just after birth are compared. Feeding and playing habits are described, too, in a simple text; format, print size, and length of text are appropriate for the intended audience.

Silverberg, Robert. Bridges. Macrae, 1966. 189p. illus. \$4.50.

R
7-10 A good book on bridges, the emphasis being on the continuing development in history of more varied, safe, complex, and imposing structures. The text is amply illustrated with photographs of famous bridges, old and new; it lacks diagrams of types of bridges or of structural details. The book does not give as lucid a presentation of engineering principles as does Goldwater's Bridges and How They Are Built (William R. Scott, 1965) but it does a competent and comprehensive job of reviewing historic bridges, and of discussing the problems of construction. The text is written with some vitality; the book is filled with interesting anecdotes and with information about some of the famous bridge builders of our time. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Small, Ernest. Baba Yaga; illus. by Blair Lent. Houghton, 1966. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.23 net.

Ad
3-5 A story based on the legendary figure from Russian folk literature, with the several sources given credit; the writing style is a little awkward, the story line adequately developed. A small girl, Marusia, sent by her mother to get turnips, is trapped and held by Baba Yaga; after several false alarms, Marusia avoids becoming part of a stew and escapes with a small hedgehog who proves to be an enchanted boy. The illustrations are handsome in design, touched with grotesquerie and humor, and wonderfully intricate in detail.

Summers, James L. The Long Ride Home. Westminster, 1966. 170p. \$3.50.

Ad
9-11 Todd is a junior in high school, his sister Ann a sophomore; the two make no new friends when they move from Los Angeles to a small town in California. Their isolation is planned; they are hiding from their classmates the fact that their father is an alcoholic. The strain of telling lies at school, the terrible abrasions of their home life, and the fact that they feel helpless and alone are an increasing burden on the two young people. When Todd is approached by a classmate who says he has had the same problem, he doesn't believe it; when Todd is invited to a meeting of teenagers with alcoholic relatives (Alateens) he thinks it is contrived. Only when his father is at the breaking point does Todd call on Alateens and their parents for help. The little Alateen in-group seems quite unnatural, not in their existence, but in their gay banter and tunnel vision. This weakness is balanced by the candor about father's behavior and mother's permissiveness; the author has stated the roles of alcoholic and over-protective partner, but he has not developed the characters with any finesse. The writing style is trite, often careless or ornate. ". . . away a full year while he did prison time for felony drunk driving." "That morning the lines of force within Todd Blair finally

broke—like steel wires drawn intolerably tight." The book has more shock value than does Sherburne's Jennifer (Morrow, 1959) but is not as well written or as perceptive.

Swarthout, Glendon. Whichaway; by Glendon and Kathryn Swarthout; with drawings by Richard M. Powers. Random House, 1966. 101p. \$3.25.

R
6-9 A story set in Arizona in the 1920's: harsh, compelling, and pregnant with suspense. In the vast isolation of the ranch country, a boy sets off on a round of windmill maintenance; while on a windmill platform, he is seriously injured. His survival then depends on his own resourcefulness and stamina, although twice—once with some cattle rustlers, once with a crazy old prospector—the boy might have been saved by others. He is discovered by men from the home ranch, but gets no acclaim for his courage; now he is a man—it is expected. The story has the quality of brooding space and the tight focus of action that make the Crusoe theme perennially appealing.

Thorarinsson, Sigurdur. Surtsey; The New Island in the North Atlantic; tr. by Solvi Eysteinnsson. Viking, 1967. 54p. illus. \$6.

R
8- An American edition of the fascinating account of the evolution of a volcanic island, written by the Icelandic geologist who observed the phenomena of eruption almost from the start. In November of 1963, the crew of a fishing vessel saw a fire at sea; this was the beginning of Surtsey. The text is quite comprehensible, but it makes no particular concession to the layman in the use of scientific terms; if details are not crystal clear the important facts are. The maps and diagrams are good; the photographs in black and white and in color are stunning. They are bound separately at the back of the book, numbered, and a bit of a nuisance to handle; this is especially so because textual references are not in absolute sequence. The style is vivacious and the explanations of events lucid.

Thum, Marcella. Anne of the Sandwich Islands. Dodd, 1967. 244p. \$3.50.

M
7-9 Motherless Anne is seventeen when she sails with a missionary family to the islands in 1840; en route to join her father, she arrives to find his ship has been lost at sea. Anne becomes a teacher at the Royal School of Honolulu, becomes engaged to a handsome young businessman (although it should be fairly clear to any reader that her true love is a young medical student of courage and integrity), and searches for the father she persists in believing alive. As indeed he proves to be. The plot is patterned and the writing style pedestrian; the chief value of the book is that it gives a considerable amount of Hawaiian history, although it is material available elsewhere.

Waber, Bernard. Lyle and the Birthday Party. Houghton, 1966. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.25; Library ed. \$3.07 net.

R
K-2 One of the accompaniments to many a child's birthday party is the sulking of a jealous sibling. Here the smitten one is Lyle, the amiable crocodile of The House on East 88th Street and Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile. Worried by his unusual fretfulness, his mistress calls a doctor; she gets confused and calls the wrong one, however, so Lyle is admitted to an ordinary hospital. The staff is slightly baffled, but they process and

admit Lyle, who proceeds to improve in disposition and health in direct proportion to the amount of help he gives other patients. The writing is straightforward, in contrast to the nonsensical situation; all of the expressed humor is in the lively illustrations.

Whitney, Phyllis Ayame. Secret of the Spotted Shell; illus. by John Mecray. Westminister, 1967. 256p. \$3.75.

R
6-9 One of Miss Whitney's best mystery stories. Wendy goes to the Virgin Islands to visit her cousins, the Coles, and finds on her arrival that cousin Gordon, a flyer, has disappeared; his wife, whose only child has recently died, is prostrate with shock. Marian's torpor makes it difficult for Wendy to decide what to do when she realizes that several people want a shell that clearly bears a clue to some mystery. Wendy also learns not to make hasty or intolerant judgments about people as she begins to feel less a stranger. The ending is a bit contrived: the mystery is solved, Gordon returns, Marian recovers, even Pop shows up. One of the most pleasant facets of the book is in the acceptance as natural of the fact that many Island residents are of mixed backgrounds.

Willard, Barbara. Charity at Home; illus. by Douglas Hall. Harcourt, 1966. 187p. \$3.25.

R
6-9 A very good story set in an English village. Charity, fourteen, has been living with her aunt's family since she was orphaned at the age of four. She has just discovered her goal: she wants to be a sculptress; she has just discovered a problem: her family doesn't understand her. Influenced by the bitterness of Derek, a fringe-delinquent acquaintance, Charity exaggerates the gulf between herself and her family. She sees herself rather clearly, however, and she begins to realize that she has been dramatizing differences. Characterization and dialogue are very good; although the plot includes a robbery in which Charity is involved, it is realistic and is deftly structured.

Williams, Jay. What Can You Do with a Word? illus. by Leslie Goldstein. Macmillan, 1966. 32p. (Beginning Reader) Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$3.24 net.

M
3-5 A brief fanciful story that doesn't quite come off. The witch for whom Fred worked had invented a word machine that she gave him; he went off into the middle of next week by turning the handle and getting the word "spang." Then he met some princes; again the word machine helped when, for example, the word "zigzag" worked as a saw, so that a sawn log enabled the party to cross a chasm. Then the word "please" won for Fred the hand of an enchanted princess. The machine stopped working, but the princess said "You won't need any. Now you have me." The book hasn't quite enough humor to be an amusing story, not enough action to be an adventure story, and not enough consistency in the way the words (from the word machine) are used to be meaningful.

Wyse, Lois. Two Guppies, a Turtle, and Aunt Edna; illus. by Roger Coast. World, 1966. 32p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.88 net.

Ad
K-3 A light-hearted story for the read-aloud audience, written in an easy style and illustrated with bright, stylized, and occasionally busy pictures. Robbie has an Aunt Edna who is satisfactory in every way but one: she

telephones during the family dinner hour. When the meal is early because of a PTA meeting, she calls at five; if the family sits down at seven, she calls at seven. Young Robbie solves the problem in a flash of inspiration; Aunt Edna is invited to live with the family, and there are no more telephone calls during meals. The solution seems pat, but the humorous tone—especially in dialogue—makes this weakness quite palatable.

Young, Margaret B. The First Book of American Negroes; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1966. 86p. Trade ed. \$2.65; Library ed. \$1.98 net.

Ad
5-9 Although the title is slightly misleading, this is a book that should prove useful; it is less about the history of American Negroes than about the struggle of the American Negro today. There is a considerable amount of historical background, but the emphasis is on individuals and problems in contemporary life. Willy Mays, Sammy Davis, Ruby Dee, and Duke Ellington are mentioned, for example; Phillis Wheatley, Robert Smalls, Mary McLeod Bethune, and George Washington Carver are not. The text is arranged in topics such as "Education," "Where the Negro Lives," "Cultural Contributions," and "The Civil Rights Movement." Within each topic the author gives some historical background and a discussion of problems and issues. An index is appended.

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